



IPW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshihiko TSUJI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 10/603,807

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Filed: June 26, 2003

Docket No.: 116370

For: EXPOSURE METHOD AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 18, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-7, 9-16, 19-26 and 28-34. The election is made with traverse.¹

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that a search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions". It is

¹ During a June 25 telephone conference with Examiner Nguyen, in which it was pointed out that certain claims were amended and claims 20-35 were added in a March 10, 2004 Preliminary Amendment, it was agreed that the above-identified claims correspond to Group I.

respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted in the June 26, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 7, 2004

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